



File Code: 1950

Date: May 29, 2012

Dear Reader:

We have just completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Draft Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU). The Forest Service has been working on this plan for several years and many of you have already been involved.

It is available for review, either by viewing on our Forest Plan Revision website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ltbmu/ForestPlanRevision>, on compact disk, or as a printed copy.

This is an important step in the process of revising our management direction. We have worked hard to develop these draft documents, incorporating many ideas that we heard in community meetings, and from groups and individuals. We have identified Alternative B as the Agency Preferred Alternative, based on what we have heard from people, analysis of the alternatives, and where we think a reasonable resolution of issues falls. The identification of the preferred alternative is not a decision. It represents our current thinking based on what we have learned so far.

Now we need your help in reviewing and commenting. Here are a few tips that may help:

- Start by looking at the Summary, found at the front of Volume 1, to get oriented.
- Volume 1 is the DEIS. Chapter 1 describes why we are updating management direction, Chapter 2 describes the alternatives, and Chapter 3 describes environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives. A good way to become familiar with the alternatives is to look at the alternative comparison tables at the end of Chapter 2.
- Volume 2 is the Draft Forest Plan. It describes management direction for the preferred alternative in detail.
- Volume 3 contains the Appendices. These include additional detail on specific topics, including the Monitoring Plan, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- We are not conducting a vote on alternatives, but your specific comments on how to improve the preferred alternative, what you prefer in other alternatives, or important things that you think we missed in alternatives is very helpful.
- We can better respond to your comments if you are as specific as possible.

During the comment period we will hold public meetings to assist you with understanding the documents and submitting comments. An advance notice of the time and location for these meetings will be advertised in local newspapers, via letter or email, and on the Forest Plan Revision website listed above.



The Notice of Availability (NOA) published in the Federal Register on June 1, 2012 initiates a 90-day public review and comment period. During this period, comments may be submitted using one of the following methods:

By email: [comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificsouthwest-ltbmu@fs.fed.us)  
Subject: "Draft Land Management Plan"

By mail: Draft Land Management Plan  
LTBMU  
35 College Drive  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Public comments will be incorporated into a Final EIS (FEIS) and Forest Plan anticipated to be published in late 2012. Publication of the FEIS will begin a 60-day objection period. Members of the public, agencies, and groups who commented during the opportunities for public comment may file an objection. Individual members of organizations must have submitted their own comments to meet the requirements of eligibility as an individual, objections received on behalf of an organization are considered as those of the organization only (36 CFR 219.53). After the time allowed for resolution of objections, a Record of Decision signed by the Regional Forester will be published and the revised Forest Plan will be in effect.

If you have questions contact Denise Downie at (530) 543-2683 or Matt Dickinson at (530) 543-2769. The decisions we make will guide management of the LTBMU for the next decade and beyond. We look forward to your thoughtful review and input.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Nancy J. Gibson*  
NANCY J. GIBSON  
Forest Supervisor